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HISTORY OF THE EARL OF DERWENTWATER.

His Life, Adventures, Trial, and Execution.—His Defence when on his Trial in the House of Lords, and his Speech to the People from the Scaffold, previous to his Execution.—Several interesting Particulars of his Death and Burial—his Associates, Lady Derwentwater, and Dilston Castle.

ALSO, A COPY OF PATHETIC VERSES,

"*The Earl of Derwentwater's Farewell!*"

Printed and sold by W. & T. Fordyce, Newcastle and Hull. To be had also of J. Whinham & Co. 66, Scotch-street, Carlisle.

HISTORY

OF THE

Earl of Derwentwater.

THE memory of this amiable nobleman continues to be highly revered in the north of England, and numerous inſtances of his affability and beneficence continue to be related with feelings of ſympathy and regret. His fate was very generally lamented. He was nearly related to the houſe of Stuart, and perſonally acquainted with Prince Charles. He was formed by nature to be generally beloved, for his beneficence was ſo univerſal, that he ſeemed to live for others. He almoſt conſtantly reſided at Dilſton, (near Corbridge) where he ſpent his ample income, and employed his time in diſcharging offices of kindneſs and charity. The generous and ſplendid hoſpitality of his houſe was unequalled, and his door and purſe were continually open to every one, whether neighbour or ſtranger, without regard to their political and religious ſentiments. His death was followed by the ruin of one of the moſt flouriſhing families in the north of England. A relation of the circumſtances that preceded the ruin of the noble and ancient houſe of Derwentwater, muſt be intereſting to the reader. Many other reſpectable Northumberland families

fell at the same time, and produced very important changes in the county.

James Ratcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, was born on the 28th day of June, 1689, and succeeded to his father's immense estates and wealth, when in his 15th year. He was revered by the poor as well as the rich, for his affability was such, that the poorest peasant received as kind a greeting from him, as the richest of his acquaintance. His charity was unbounded, and it was no uncommon thing to see him entering the cottages of the old and infirm to see with his own eyes that they were not in want, and to minister to their comforts. He was well made, and of a mild and pleasing countenance. He married Anna Maria, eldest daughter of Sir John Webb, of Canford, county of Dorset, and they lived the most happy and comfortable life imaginable, until movements were observed indicating a meditated insurrection against the Hanoverian succession, in various parts of the country. The ministry resolved to secure the persons of all those known to be the least disaffected. Accordingly messengers were dispatched to apprehend the Earl of Derwentwater, and Thomas Forster, Esq. M. P. for Northumberland; but having timely intimation of it, the Earl unwillingly retired from his domestic comfort, to a neighbouring cottage, inhabited by a humble but faithful retainer of the family Cuthbert Swinburn.

Mr. Forster also left his dwelling, and after wandering to several places, came to the house of Mr Fenwick, of Bywell, where those in pursuit got scent of him, and he narrowly escaped being taken. The case of the whole of the Northumberland gentlemen now became desperate, as no one considered himself safe from being arrested, and several resolved immediately to appear in arms.

Pursuant to this resolution, the next morning, October 6, 1715, at a place called Greenrig, Mr. Forster, with about 20 gentlemen, met at the rendezvous, and then rode to the top of a hill, called the Waterfalls, from whence they might discover any that came, either to join or oppose them. On this morning the Earl of Derwentwater went secretly into his castle at Dilston, to enjoy a stolen interview with his wife and child, when intelligence was brought to him of the gathering at the Waterfalls. His wife immediately said, "you cannot continue with honour, Earl of Derwentwater, hiding your head in hovels from the light of day, and the Northumberland gentlemen up in arms for the good cause of King Charles." "Neither will I," said the Earl, and immediately ordered every male in and about the castle to arms, and every horse was put in requisition, even the coach-horses were saddled and bridled on this occasion. They mustered in the yard, formed, drew their swords, and, led by the Earl, galloped to the rendezvous. When they joined Mr. Forster and his company, they were in all about 60 horse, mostly gentlemen and their attendants. After a short consultation, they marched to Plainfield, near the Coquet, where they were joined by others, and then proceeded to Rothbury. Next morning, the 7th of October, they marched to Warkworth. On Sunday morning, Mr. Forster sent Mr. Buxton, their chaplain, to Mr. Ion, the minister of the parish, with orders for him "to pray for the pretender as King, and, in the Litany, for Mary Queen Mother, and all the dutiful branches of the royal family;" which Mr. Ion declining, Mr. Buxton took possession of the church, read prayers, and preached. In the mean while, Mr. Ion went to Newcastle to acquaint the government with what had happened. Here Mr. Forster, in disguise, and by sound of

trumpet proclaimed Charles Stuart as King of Great Britain, &c. with all the formality that the circumstances and place would admit. On the 10th they marched to Morpeth, having been joined at Felton Bridge by 70 Scots gentlemen from the borders. They had been considerably increased before, in the march from Warkworth, at Alnwick and other places, so that, at their entering Morpeth, they were 300 strong, all horse, for they would entertain no foot; otherwise their number would have been very large; but as they neither had nor could provide arms for those they had mounted, they gave the poor people hopes of being soon furnished with arms and ammunition.

The Northumbrians, according to Patten, were divided into troops. The first troop was the Earl of Derwentwater's, and was commanded by his brother, Charles Ratcliffe, Esq., and Captain John Shaftoe. The second troop was Lord Widdrington's, commanded by Thomas Errington, Esq. of Beaufront, who had been formerly an officer in the French Service, where he acquired great reputation. The third troop was commanded by Capt. John Hunter, of North Tindale. In the examination of Joseph Redshaw, of Durham Fields, near Hexham, the names of several other Northumbrian gentlemen, who had taken arms for the house of Stuart are mentioned; and among whom are, "Philip Hodgson, of Sandaw, Esq., Mr. William Sanderson, of Hely, and George Sanderson, his brother, Capt. Robert Talbot, (an Irishman) Capt. Salkeld, Capt. Ogner, (an Irishman) Capt. John Hunter, Capt. Leonard Hunter, Robt. Shaftoe, of Bavington, Esq, and his son, Mr. Joblyn, of Benwell, Mr. Lyle, jun. of Hawson, Mr. Henry Anderson, near Monkridge, Mr. Tonstal, (their pay-master-general) Mr. Edw. Swinburn, of Capheaton, Doctor Charleton, and Mr. William Charleton, sons

of Mr. William Charleton, of Reedsmouth. And further saith, that he has been informed by their quartermasters and serjeants, that Sir William Blackett, and Mr. Fenwick, of Bywell, would join them; and that on the third of this instant, they intended to march from Penrith, where the said party of rebels then were, to Appleby, and from thence to Kendal, and from thence to Lancashire or Wales, where they expected a great number would join them, from whence they would march back to Newcastle, where, if they should meet with any resistance, that then they would burn the town and put the inhabitants to the sword, and afterwards march forward towards London. And that hitherto they have frequently been supplied with considerable sums of money by Sir William Blackett, Sir Wm. Swinburn, of Capheaton, and Peter Potts, of Newcastle, attorney-at-law, Esq., Riddle, near Gateshead, Robt. Lisle, of Hayson, Esq., and Mr. Wm. Charleton, sen. of Reedsmouth. And further, that he hath heard one Jeffrey Potts, near Bellingham, one of their quarter-masters, say, that some officers informed him, the said Potts, that they were assured by Sir William Blackett, that if they marched to Newcastle, where there would be one person in the town to shut the gates against them, there would be twenty to open them.

Mr. Forster, being a protestant, was, from policy, appointed general. He marched forward with an intention of surprising Newcastle; but finding the gates shut, and a show of defence, he turned westward to Hexham, where he was reinforced by another party of Scotch horsemen. Here he halted three days, collecting arms, and horses to mount the volunteers, who flocked from all quarters. On the night before his departure, Prince Charles was proclaimed in the Market-place. Mr. Forster had sent an express to Lord Viscount Kenmure, who

was in arms in the west of Scotland, inviting him to enter Northumberland. His lordship agreed to the proposal, and immediately marched to Rothbury. On the 19th of October, Mr. Forster left Hexham, and joined him at Rothbury that night. Next morning the whole body marched to Wooller, on their way to Kelso, to join the Highlanders, who were advancing under Mackintosh. The Highlanders entered that town on the 22d of October, and the Northumberland and Nithsdale horse arrived the same evening. On the 25th, Lieutenant-general Carpenter set out from Newcastle, with Hotham's regiment of foot, and 3 regiments of dragoons, and on the following day arrived at Wooller, intending to attack Kelso immediately. Lord Kenmure hearing of his approach, called a council of war. Lord Winton pressed them earnestly to join the clans in the west of Scotland, but the infatuated Northumbrians opposed this opinion. It was next proposed to attack General Carpenter while his troops were few and weary; this advice was also rejected, on which they broke up from Kelso, and marched to Jedburgh. At Hawick moor the Highlanders mutinied, and positively refused to enter England. During the dispute they were surrounded by the horse, in order to compel them to march forward; but the Highlanders cocked their firelocks, saying, "If they were to be sacrificed, it should be in their own country." A false alarm was given during the night, to try the Highlanders, who flew to arms, and formed in good order.

Next day the whole army marched to Langholm, intending to attack Dumfries, the key of the west, and which was in a very defenceless state; but a difference of opinion also frustrated this rational scheme, and the Northumberland gentlemen insisted on marching to Lancashire, where they a

firmed 20,000 men would instantly join them. This induced about 500 Highlanders to retire into the mountains in disgust: the rest, with great difficulty, were kept together.

Having entered England, they marched to Brampton, where Mr. Frost, by virtue of his commission to act as general south of the Tweed, took upon himself the command. On approaching Penrith, they discovered the whole *posse* of Cumberland, amounting to 12,000 men, with the Sheriff, Lord Lonsdale, and the Bishop of Carlisle, drawn out to oppose them; but on the appearance of General Forster and his followers, they all dispersed, leaving several horses and arms on the field. Next day, Gen. Forster marchedto Kendal; and, on the 9th of November, entered Lancaster, where he seized six pieces of cannon. At Preston, a regiment of militia, and Stanhope's regiment of dragoons, fled on his approach. Here he was reinforced by several gentlemen and their followers, and it was resolved, next day, to enter Manchester, seize Warrington-bridge, and thus open a way to Liverpool; but this project, like all others that had any show of prudence, was delayed until their destruction was completed.

On the 12th, General Forster gave orders for his army to march; but was soon informed that General Willis, with four regiments of dragoons, and one of foot, were in sight. Depending on the promise of the Lancashire gentlemen for timely intelligence, he was greatly surprised at the appearance of the royal army: but after reconnoitering, he returned to the town to prepare for their reception. His men were not dispirited, but cheerfully commenced the preparations for their defence. They barricadoed the avenues, and posted their men in the streets and bye-lanes, and such houses as were most proper for galling their enemies. General

Forster formed four main barriers; the first a little below the church, commanded by Brigadier Mackintosh, and supported by the Earls of Derwentwater, Winton, and Nithsdale, the Lord Kenmure, and the gentlemen volunteers in the church-yard. The second was situated at the end of a lane leading to the fields, and commanded by Lord Charles Murray. The third barrier was near a wind-mill, and commanded by the Laird of Mackintosh. The fourth was in the street leading to Liverpool, commanded by Major Miller and Mr. Douglas. They drew up several entrenchments in an instant, and did all in their power to make a stout resistance, but were guilty of one capital error; for General Forster recalled 100 men from a narrow and difficult pass, that terminated by a bridge, and which might have been easily defended against a great force. General Wallis, surprised to find the pass abandoned, cautiously approached the town, and having viewed the disposition of his enemy, determined on attacking all the four barriers at once; but at every one his troops were repulsed with considerable slaughter. Notwithstanding this success, the courage of General Forster's little army failed, on receiving intelligence next morning that General Carpenter had arrived with his three regiments of dragoons. The Highlanders proposed to sally out upon the king's forces, and die like men, sword in hand; but this was over-ruled.—Lord Widdrington then prevailed on General Forster to offer to capitulate. Accordingly, Colonel Oxburgh went with a trumpet to General Wallis offering to surrender prisoners of war; but the general insisted they should submit at discretion This, at length, was agreed to; and Earl Derwentwater, with Brigadier Mackintosh, were delivered as hostages. Next morning, the king's troops entered the town, and having seized the noblemen and

gentlemen, secured the Highlanders, who were drawn up in the Market-place. The number of English taken was 463, including 75 noblemen and gentlemen, mostly Northumbrians; and the Scots amounted to 1005, among whom were 143 noblemen, officers, and gentlemen.

The half-pay officers among the prisoners were immediately shot; but Earl Derwentwater, Lord Widdrington, General Forster, and the other prisoners of consequence were sent to London, and conveyed to their respective prisons, in the most insulting manner. The parliament met on the 9th of January, and the Commons immediately began business by expelling Mr. Forster, who was member for Northumberland, and impeaching the Earl of Derwentwater.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, 1716, at about one o'clock, the lords came from their own house into the court-yard erected in Westminster-hall, to pass sentence upon James Earl of Derwentwater. The clerk of the crown presenting his Majesty's commission to the lord high steward, which having been read, the Earl of Derwentwater was brought to the bar by the deputy governor of the Tower, having the axe carried before him by the gentleman gaoler, who stood with it on the left hand of the prisoner. When the prisoner approached the bar, (after kneeling) bowed to his grace the lord high steward, and to the house of peers, which compliment was returned by his grace and the house of peers. The articles of impeachment were then read, and the Earl was allowed until the 19th of January to give in his answer. On the 19th the order of the day being read, James Earl of Derwentwater was brought to the bar by the gentleman usher of the black rod, where he kneeled until the lord chancellor directed him to rise; his lordship demanded of the Earl if he was ready to put in his answer,

which he said he was, and delivered the following:—

Earl of Derwentwater's ANSWER to the Charge of High Treason.

"To a charge of so high and heinous a nature, the said Earl cannot answer without the deepest concern & affliction, which becomes more weighty from the share the honourable House of Commons have been pleased to take in the accusation: he assures himself, however, that great assembly doth not engage in the prosecution of an offence, so open to conviction in the ordinary course of law, with design to intercept that mercy which the Earl, from the report of his Majesty's natural goodness, had reason to expect. It would be a thought unworthy any member of that august body, to imagine he could have the least desire of spilling the blood of any of his fellow subjects, whom his Majesty's great wisdom should think a fit object of his mercy; the said Earl therefore hopes that his prosecution is taken out of the common course of justice, with intention, that if in his particular case there shall appear any circumstances inducing favour or compassion, both your Lordships and the Commons may be intercessors with his Majesty for grace towards him; whereby the exercise of the royal mercy, upon which the Earl depended (which amongst all the virtues of the crown most endears a monarch to the love and affection of his people), may be extended in such manner as may demonstrate the clemency for which his Majesty is so greatly renowned, and not encourage any to offend upon the presumption of it for the future. The said Earl acknowledges, with a real sorrow, that at the time in the articles mentioned he was in arms, & with others did march through, and invade several parts of this kingdom; and confesses he is thereby guilty of the offence wherewith he is charged in the same articles. But if any offence of that kind was ever attended with circumstances which might move compassion, the said Earl hopes he may be entitled to it: he begs leave to inform your lordships, that his temper and inclination disposed him to live peaceably under his Majesty's government,

and he never had the least prejudice or malice against his person, nor was he ever heretofore concerned in, or privy to, any design or contrivance to subvert or disturb the established government, the laws or religion of this kingdom; and if any methods were taken by others to accomplish any of those ends, he was absolutely a stranger to them; nor did he now engage in this unhappy undertaking upon any previous concert or contrivance for any such purpose; but being young and inexperienced, he rashly, and without any deliberation, engaged himself to meet at Plainfield, in Northumberland, on assurance that many of his relations & acquaintance should appear there; that his undertaking was sudden, appears in that he engaged in it without any previous preparation of men, horses, arms, or other warlike accoutrements; & as the said Earl cannot be justly reproached with any cruel, severe, or harsh action during the continuance in arms, so he took the first opportunity that offered of submitting to the King's mercy. After the sudden skirmishes at Preston, the said Earl, with others, was solicitous to prevent any farther destruction of the lives of his Majesty's subjects, and instrumental to induce all in arms to submit themselves to the King, provided they might be secured of their lives. One of his majesty's officers, sent from the general, gave them encouragement to believe, that the surrender of themselves would be the ready way to obtain the King's mercy: in confidence whereof, when a cessation was agreed on, the said Earl offered himself to become one of the hostages for them till next morning, in which time he was further assured by the officers, that the King was a prince of known clemency; that this was a distinguishing part of his character, and that the free surrender to mercy would be the most proper means to obtain it. The said Earl believes his Majesty's officers were very sensible, and will be so just as to acknowledge, that it had not been impracticable for many of those at Preston to make their way through his Majesty's forces; but this attempt must have occasioned the loss of many lives, and might have been productive of ill consequences to the government, which the said Earl was desirous to prevent; and when the time agreed on for the cessation

was near expired, and General Willis seemed uneasy in not having received any message from those in the town, the said Earl writ a letter to exhort them to surrender to the King's mercy: and at the same time declared to the said general, and other officers, that whatever happened, he was determined to continue with them, and rely entirely on his Majesty's clemency and goodness, which he had encouragement to expect: and in such circumstances the said Earl cannot distrust your Lordships' or the Commons' readiness to use their mediation for mercy on his behalf, which will lay him under the highest obligations of duty and affection to his Majesty, and perpetual gratitude to both houses of parliament.

"DERWENTWATER."

This Answer having been read aloud to their Lordships,

The Lord High Steward said—James Earl of Derwentwater, you stand impeached of high treason by the Commons of Great Britain in parliament assembled; which treason is contained in the articles that have been lately read; to this you have pleaded guilty, and are thereby convicted. What say you, James Earl of Derwentwater, why judgment should not pass upon you according to law?

Earl of Derwentwater. "I only humbly beg leave of my noble Peers to repeat a few circumstances mentioned in my answer to the articles of impeachment exhibited against me by the honourable House of Commons. But the terrors of your Lordships' just sentence, which at once deprive me of my life and estate, and complete the misfortunes of my wife and innocent children, are so heavy upon my mind, together with my inexperience, that I am scarce able to allege what may extenuate my offence, if any thing can do it. I have confessed myself guilty; but, my Lords, that guilt was rashly incurred without any premeditation, as I hope your Lordships will be convinced by one particular; I beg leave to observe, I was wholly unprovided with men, horses, arms, and other necessaries, which in my situation I could not have wanted, had I been

privy to any formed design. As my offence was sudden, so my submission was early: when his Majesty's generals thought fit to demand hostages for securing the terms of the cessation, I voluntarily offered myself, without which the cessation might possibly have proved ineffectual: and whilst I continued hostage, the great character of his Majesty's clemency, and the repeated encouragement I had to hope for mercy, by surrendering to it, soon determined me; and I accordingly declared my resolution to remain with his Majesty's forces, and from that time submitted myself to his goodness, on which I still entirely depend. I humbly hope to obtain the mediation of your Lordships, and of the honourable House of Commons in my behalf; solemnly protesting my future conduct shall shew me not altogether unworthy your generous compassion for my life, which is all I can beg of his Majesty."

Lord High Steward. "My Lord Derwentwater, your Lordship's voice hath not been perfectly heard to this end of the court, therefore I ask you whether you have pleaded any thing in arrest of judgment?"

Lord Derwentwater. "No, my Lords."

The Lord High Steward then addressed the prisoner at considerable length on the nature of his crime, and concluded thus:—

"And now, my Lord, nothing remains, but that I pronounce upon you, (and sorry am I that it falls to my lot to do it) that terrible sentence of the law, which must be the same that is usually given against the meanest offender in the like kind. The most ignominious and painful parts of it are usually remitted by the grace of the crown to persons of your quality; but the law in this case being deaf to all distinctions of persons, requires I should pronounce, and accordingly it is adjudged by this Court——'That you, James Earl of Derwentwater, return to the prison of the Tower from whence you came; from thence you must be drawn to the place of execution; when you come there, you must be hanged by the neck, but not till you be head; for you must be cut down alive; then your bowels must be taken out and burnt before your face;

then your head must be severed from your body, and your body divided into four quarters; and these must be at the King's disposal. And God Almighty be merciful to your soul.'"

On hearing the dreadful sentence, with an unmoved countenance, he bowed and retired in a firm step.

Great solicitations were made with the court, and with the members of both houses of parliament, in behalf of the Earl. His Countess, attended by her sister, and accompanied by the Duchess of Cleveland and Bolton, and several other ladies of the first rank, was by the Dukes of Richmond and St. Alban's, introduced into the King's bed-chamber, where she implored his clemency for her unfortunate consort, and then withdrew. As his answer seems to have been unfavourable, she went on the 21st into the lobby of the House of Lords, to beg their intercession; but here also her petition was disregarded. The next morning she went to Westminster, with a great attendance, to petition both houses of parliament. The Duke of Richmond, a near relation of the Earl's, was prevailed on to present her petition; yet he voted against it. The house, however, seemed rather inclined to mercy; but it was finally agreed to leave the matter to his Majesty, who did not think proper either to reprieve or pardon the Earl of Derwentwater; and those who spoke in favour of this young and amiable nobleman and the other condemned Lords, drew down upon themselves his marked displeasure. The same evening, (the 22d of February) orders were despatched for the execution the next morning.

Accordingly, at day-break, three detachments of the Guards took their several posts round the scaffold erected on Tower-hill; and, a little before ten o'clock, the Earl of Derwentwater and the Lord Kenmure, (convicted of the same offence) were carried in a hackney-coach from the Tower to

the Transport-office, on Tower-hill, where there was a room hung with black for their reception. From this room to the scaffold there was a railed gallery, which was also covered with black. The Earl of Derwentwater was first led to the scaffold; and it was observed, that in his going thither, and ascending the steps, his countenance turned very pale. But, after he had been a few minutes on the scaffold, his behaviour appeared resolute and sedate. Having spent some time in prayer with a book, he then addressed himself to the sheriff, and desired he might have liberty to read a paper which he had drawn up. This request being readily granted, he went to the rails of the scaffold, and read as follows:—

"Being in a few minutes to appear before the tribunal of God, where, though most unworthy, I hope to find mercy, which I have not found from men now in power, I have endeavoured to make my peace with his Divine Majesty, by most humbly begging pardon for all the sins of my life; and I doubt not of a merciful forgiveness, through the merits of the passion and death of my Saviour Jesus Christ: for which end I earnestly desire the prayers of all good Christians.

"After this, I am to ask pardon of those whom I might have scandalized by pleading guilty at my trial. Such as were permitted to come to me, told me that having been undeniably in arms, pleading guilty was but the consequence of having submitted to mercy; and many arguments were used to prove there was nothing of moment in so doing; among others, the universal practice of signing leases, whereof the preambles run in the name of the person in possession.

"But I am sensible, that in this I have made bold with my loyalty, having never owned any other than King James the Third for my rightful and lawful Sovereign; him I had an inclination to serve from my infancy, and was moved thereto by a natural love I had to his person, knowing him capable of making his people happy;

and though he had been of a different religion from mine, I should have done for him all that lay in my power, as my ancestors have done for his predecessors, being thereto bound by the laws of God and man.

"Wherefore, if in this affair I have acted rashly, it ought not to affect the innocent: I intended to wrong nobody, but to serve my king and country, and that without self-interest; hoping by the example I gave, to have influenced others to do their duty; and God, who sees the secrets of my heart, knows I speak truth. Some means have been proposed to me for saving my life, which I looked upon as inconsistent with honour and conscience, and therefore I rejected them; for, with God's assistance, I shall prefer any death to the doing a base unworthy action. I only wish now, that the laying down my life might contribute to the service of my king and country, and the re-establishment of the ancient and fundamental constitution of these kingdoms; without which, no lasting peace or true happiness can attend them; then I should, indeed, part with life even with pleasure: as it is, I can only pray, that these blessings may be bestowed upon my dear country; and since I can do no more, I beseech God to accept of my life, as a small sacrifice towards it.

"I die a Roman Catholic; I am in perfect charity with all the world, I thank God for it, even with those of the present government, who are most instrumental in my death. I freely forgive such as ungenerously reported false tales of me; and I hope to be forgiven the trespasses of my youth, by the Father of infinite mercy, into whose hand I commend my soul.

"JA. DERWENTWATER."

"P. S.—If that prince who now governs had given me my life, I should have thought myself obliged never more to have taken up arms against him."

After the reading of this paper, he delivered it to the sheriff, telling him he might do with it as he pleased; and that he had given a copy of it to a friend. Then turning to the block, he viewed it

close, and finding in it a rough place, that might offend his neck, he, with uncommon presence of mind, bid the executioner chip it off. Having prepared himself for the blow, by taking off his coat and waistcoat, he lay down to fit his head to the block, telling the executioner, that the sign he should give him was, "*Lord Jesu, receive my soul;*" and, at the third time of repeating it, he was to do his office, which he did at one blow. It was reported that, the night before, the Earl of Derwentwater having sent for Mr. Stephen Roome, an undertaker for funerals, and discoursing with him about his own, he told him he would have a silver plate on his coffin, with an inscription importing, *that he died a sacrifice to his lawful Sovereign;* but Mr. Roome scrupling to comply with it, he was dismissed. This was the reason no hearse was provided for him at his execution; so that his head was only taken up by one of his servants, and put into a clean handkerchief; and, the body being wrapped up in black cloth, they were both together carried to the Tower.

Many wonderful and miraculous circumstances were popularly believed to have accompanied his death; and the *Aurora Borealis*, which appeared remarkably vivid on the night of his execution, is still known by the name of *Lord Derwentwater's Lights.* His lordship's last request, to be buried with his ancestors at Dilston, was refused: but either a sham funeral took place, or the corpse was afterwards removed; for it was certainly conveyed secretly from London, and deposited in the family vault.—From accident or design, the coffin was broken open a few years ago, and the body found, after the lapse of near a century, in a high state of preservation. It was easily recognized, by the suture round the neck, by the openness of the countenance, and by the regularity of the features. The

teeth were all perfect; but Mr. Surtees, in his History of Durham, says, that "several of them were drawn by a blacksmith, and sold for 2s. 6d. a piece." In a short time after, the vault was closed up.—This unfortunate nobleman is described to have been rather under the middle size, slender, and active, with a fine, comely, and prepossessing aspect.

The ample estates of the Ratcliffe family were declared forfeited, and an act of parliament passed to transfer the use of them to the Greenwich Hospital. This business was not decided without some dispute, as appears from the following paper:—

"This is again to renew and repeat my orders to all the tenants belonging to my dear son's estate, not to pay any monies or rents to the commissioners for the forfeited estate, or to the receivers appointed by them. And I do hereby promise to indemnify them for all costs or charges they may be at, in refusing to do the same, until such time as the claim is decided, and the law-suit ended. Witness my hand this third day of August, in the year 1717.

"ANN DERWENTWATER."

The following pathetic lines, on the fate of this unfortunate nobleman, and the ruin of his mansion at Dilston, will be found worthy the reader's perusal:—

HOW mournful feeble Nature's tone,
When Dilston Hall appears:
Where none's to wait the orphan's moan,
Nor dry the widow's tears!

The helpless aged poor survey
This building as it stands;
In moving anguish heard to say,
(And weeping wring their hands),

The bounteous earl, he is no more,
Who once adorn'd this plain;

Reliev'd the needy at his door,
And freely did sustain.

Here flowing plenty once did reign,
Which gladden'd every face;
But now, alas! reversed scene,
For owls a dwelling-place.

The tim'rous deer hath left the lawn,
The oak a victim falls;
The gentle traveller sighs when shewn
These desolated walls.

Each generous mind emotion feels,
With pious pity mov'd;
No breast its anguish yet conceals
For one so well belov'd.

Let no unhallow'd tongue, or servile slave,
Their partial clamour vent beyond the grave;
But let the noble Dead his honours wear;
His fault deplore, his virtue still revere:
Tho' err he did, he finish'd the debate,
With his own blood, and Radclyffe's fair estate.
The aged farmer, tott'ring o'er the green,
Leans on his staff, recounts the days he's seen:
Informs the list'ning youth by his record,
How blest his roof, how plenteous was his board;
Nor rack'd by Derwent's hospitable lord.
He stops his tale, involv'd in grief profound;
He sighs, he weeps, and feebly strikes the ground;
Cries, why rehearse these golden days of yore,
Since they to me, to me can be no more!
The clement heart, and curious, often calls
To view the naked park, and stripped walls:
E'en the damp walls their stony tears impart,
As if their master's wound had pierc'd their heart.
Ye pensive mutes, 'tentive on Dilston wait,
And mourn eternal Radclyffe's tragic fate!

The Earl's brother, Charles, was tried and condemned on the 18th of May, 1716, but afterwards reprieved, though retained in strict confinement in Newgate. He, however, on the 11th of December, 1716, contrived to effect his escape to France,

He was frequently in England afterwards; but the difficulty of identifying him prevented government from attempting his apprehension. After his capture, at sea, in 1745, "old Sir Wm. Middleton," according to the late R. Spearman, "sent for Mr. R—, of A—, who had been at school with Mr. Ratcliffe, at Corbridge, and he swore positively to his person, from a scar on his forehead." He was executed on Tower-hill the same year.

It appears that Lady Derwentwater, during her lord's imprisonment, and after his death, continued to rent Dagnam Park, near Romford, and not far from Thorndon, Lord Petre's. This was bought by Sir Richard Neaver, Mrs. Howard's father. The chapel, which had been fitted up in the Catholic manner, and was taken down only about the year 1784, was wainscotted in oak, with an oaken Catholic altar and pulpit. Lord Derwentwater's body was brought from London, and laid there till sent to Dilston. There was a foolish story current, that his ghost walked in the gallery adjoining.—There is now in Ingalestone Alms-house, founded by Lord Petre's family, an old woman, who has frequently heard from her mother, what was otherwise also known, that she assisted in sewing on the head. At Thorndon is kept an oak chest, with an inscription in brass, engraved there by Lady Derwentwater's orders, and containing Lord Derwentwater's dress which he wore on the scaffold:—coat, waistcoat, breeches, of black velvet; stockings that rolled over the knee; his shoes; a wig of very fair hair, that fell down on each side of the breast; a part of his shirt, (part having been cut away)—this bloody; the black serge that covered the scaffold, and also the piece of black serge that covered the block, stiff with his blood, and with the marks of the cut of the axe in it. The family of Lord Petre have found at Thorndon many most interesting letters from the Earl from the Tower, and an account of his death by his confessor, most striking and affecting. They have, besides, many

trinkets which belonged to him. The son lived to 19: had he lived till 21, preparations were making to cut off the entail, in which case the estate would now have belonged to Lord Petre. The old entail being at an end by the last Lord Newburgh's death, the estate would have come to James Lord Derwentwater's only daughter, Ann Maria Lady Petre.

When the Earl appeared in arms, he sent all the family deeds to a neighbouring cottage, inhabited by a humble but faithful retainer of the family, Cuthbert Swinburn, father of the late John Swinburn, an ingenious clock-maker of Hexham. Here they remained, concealed under Swinburn's bed, till removed to Capheaton, where they were concealed between two walls behind a chimney. Walton, a slater, of Blackheddon, and a rigid Presbyterian, when repairing the roof, discovered this concealment, and saw the chests with the Derwentwater insignia upon them. He informed Sir William Middleton, who, in 1745, being deputy for the Duke of Somerset when he searched at Capheaton for arms, was observed to measure exactly the outward space between the windows, and then the inward. When he found the place described by Walton, he broke the wall, and met with the old records above-named, which he seized and sent off to London. They are now at Greenwich Hospital. Prior to this, the commissioners were cast in many trials, not having the Ratcliffe deeds to produce, since the title of that family was their title. Walton, for this service, is said to have enjoyed a handsome pension during his life.

Derwentwater's Farewell!

Farewell to pleasant Dilston Hall,
My father's ancient seat:
A stranger now must call thee his,
Which gars my heart to greet.
Farewell each kindly well-known face,
My heart has held so dear:
My tenants now must leave their lands,
Or hold their lives in fear.

No more along the banks of Tyne,
I'll rove in autumn grey;
No more I'll hear, at early dawn,
The lav'rocks wake the day;
Then fare thee well, brave Witherington,
And Forster, ever true,
Dear Shaftsbury and Errington,
Receive my last adieu!

And fare thee well, George Collingwood,
Since fate has put us down,
If thou and I have lost our lives,
Our king has lost his crown.
Farewell, farewell, my lady dear,
Ill, ill thou councill'dst me;
I never more may see the babe
That smiles upon thy knee.

And fare thee well, my bonny grey steed,
That carried me aye so free;
I wish I had been asleep in my bed,
Last time I mounted thee.
The warning bell now bids me cease;
My trouble's nearly o'er;
Yon sun that rises from the sea,
Shall rise on me no more.

Albeit that here, in London town,
It is my fate to die,
O carry me to Northumberland,
In my father's grave to lie:
There chant my solemn requiem
In Hexham's holy towers,
And let six maids of fair Tynedale
Scatter my grave with flowers.

And when the head that wears the crown,
Shall be laid low like mine,
Some honest hearts may then lament
For Ratcliffe's fallen line.
Farewell to pleasant Dilston Hall,
My father's ancient seat,
A stranger now must call thee his,
Which gars my heart to greet.

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